

## THE MYSTERIOUS RUBBER TREE

By Garrett P. Service

The German emperor, it is reported, possesses a set of automobile tires made of synthetic, or artificial rubber. Two or three years ago artificial rubber tires were in regular use on an automobile belonging to Dr. Duisberg, in Iherfeld. It does not appear whether this laboratory rubber is as good as natural rubber or not, but, at any rate, the cost of its production at the present time is prohibitive, from a commercial point of view.

The facts above mentioned suffice to call attention to one of the greatest triumphs lying at the doors of modern chemistry. Not more than the first step toward that triumph has yet been taken, but, judging by the history of all previous advances of practical science, its complete achievement is only a matter of time and perhaps of a very short time.

Rubber is one of the strangest products of nature. It possesses properties which, until very recently, could not even be imitated. If its full usefulness to man could have been foreseen a generation ago, it would have been regarded as a special gift of Providence, just as it used to be thought that the "breadfruit" the coconut with its "milk" and other similar "ready made foods" of the tropics were specially designed for the maintenance of human beings who lived in climates too hot for daily work.

Whatever view one may take of the theory that the earth was deliberately furnished as a home for man and filled with things that would come in handy for him, it is certainly a remarkable fact that if there had been no rubber trees the bicycle and the automobile would not have been developed. It was India rubber that made the pneumatic tire possible, and we should have to give up the pneumatic tire today and go back to the jolting locomotion of our fathers in case the rubber trees should suddenly fail—unless the creators of those artificial rubber tires in Germany or other chemists still more skillful could greatly improve their product and enormously increase the quantity and decrease its cost.

But even the chemists would never have thought of such a thing as rubber if nature had not first produced it. And the botanists, on their side are yet in quandry over the question why nature ever did make rubber, anyway!

A more generalized name for rubber is "latex." Latex is a kind of viscous, or thick and sticky juice contained in certain plants, in addition to the sap which all plants have. It flows through a set of vessels of its own, independent of the sap. In the rubber tree these vessels are in the inner bark just outside the cellular network that carries the sap. Any boy who goes to a country school is likely to know what latex is though he may not know its name for he gets it on his hands every time he breaks a "milk weed."

India rubber is simply another kind of latex closely related to the "milk" of the milk weed.

The botanists understand very well what the sap in plants is for, but they are not sure what the latex is for, and especially are they puzzled by the rubber species of latex.

But, however ignorant botanists may be concerning the uses that rubber serves for the plants that contain it in their veins, all the world knows exactly what it is good for when it gets into the hands of man. It not only makes his life far more agreeable and luxurious, but it helps



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on the material triumphs of civilization in a hundred ways. A few years ago a kind of shudder seized the riders on pneumatic tires when some pessimist predicted the approaching exhaustion of the rubber trees. It was this that set the chemists at work to see if they could not make an imitation of rubber while at the same time plantations of rubber trees and plants were started in various countries.

The best rubber is the product of a tree growing in the Amazon valley and this is known as Para rubber. For several years the export from the Amazon district has averaged about 42,000 tons. There are native rubber plants of different species in Congo, Mexico and elsewhere while plantations of the true rubber trees are now flourishing in Ceylon and the Malay peninsula.

There does not appear to be any danger now of the exhaustion of native rubber, but the demand is continually increasing, so that a first class artificial rubber, cheap and abundant would be another boon from science.

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### NEW THINGS IN THE REALM OF FASHION

Some of the new skirts are startlingly full.

The waistcoat fashion still remains in vogue.

For dancing frocks the sheerest materials are used—nets, chiffons, laces, supple silks.

Overgaiter booter are one of the winter fads and they have the merit of being warm.

Hats are trimmed with sparkling things in jet, metal tinsel, and opalescent ornaments.

The newest skirts are being made with a rather high waistband, thus insuring a perfect hang.

This is the season to go into your garret and dig out your old bits of fur. As fur trimming is on every outer garment, the ready made suit or coat can be touched up at home with fur.

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### FLOWERS FOR VARIOUS MONTHS OF THE YEAR

There are two lists of flowers for the months one of the exoteric which has to do with things material, and the other the esoteric, which has to do with things spiritual. Here are both lists. They are taken from "The Pastry Book," and they are helpful in suggesting interesting decorations for various entertainments.

**Exoteric**  
January ..... Wild Rose  
February ..... Pink  
March ..... Violet  
April ..... Easter Lily  
May ..... Lily of the Valley  
June ..... Rose  
July ..... Daisy  
August ..... Water Lily  
September ..... Poppy  
October ..... Cosmos  
November ..... Chrysanthemums  
December ..... Holly

**Esoteric**  
January ..... Snowdrop  
February ..... Primrose  
March ..... Violet  
April ..... Daisy  
May ..... Hawthorne  
June ..... Wild Rose  
July ..... Water Lily  
August ..... Poppy  
September ..... Morning Glory  
October ..... Hop (or Nasturtium)  
November ..... Chrysanthemums  
December ..... Holly

**The Uncomfortable Kind.**  
The Philadelphia minister who says plenty of \$10,000 jobs are vacant doesn't alarm us. There are too many \$1 and \$2 a day jobs vacant to make the candidates comfortable.—Houston Post.

## House Plants For Interior Decoration

By Emil Hansen, Florist, Utah Agricultural College

The main thing in the selection of plants suitable for house plants and plants for decorative purposes is to select those that will bring good results. The following are a few of the most valuable palms and other decorative plants which will, with a little care, produce the best results:

**Palms**  
Phoenix Canariensis, Kentia Belmoriensis, Corypha Australis and Areca Lutescens. These are the most hardy palms and because of their elegant growth are worthy of much use for interior decorations. Other varieties, such as Lathraea Borbonica and Cocos Palm, may give satisfaction as house plants, but will require closer attention.

**Other Decorative Plants**  
Pandanus is a plant very seldom seen in this locality, but as a house plant can be mentioned as one of the best on account of its hardness. It is very well adapted to culture in the living room. Aseodistra, Araucaria Exelsa (Island Pine), Ficus Elastic (Rubber Plant), Cyperus Alternifolius (Umbrella Plant), Dracena Indivisa and Grevillea Robusta are all varieties of plants for interior decoration. If given proper attention and if they are not exposed to frost, they are very easily kept in good condition.

**Ferns**  
Nephrolepis Exaltata, well known as Boston Fern, is one of the most hardy of the fern varieties. If so desired, this plant may be used as a hanging plant. If a large specimen of a hanging plant is desired, it can be obtained by planting three of these plants in one flower pot or wire basket. If the latter is used, it should be lined with moss before putting in the soil.

Nephrolepis Elegans is very much like the Boston Fern and can be used for the same purpose. The leaves are fine and feathery like, but this plant does not prove to be so hardy for a house plant as does the Boston Fern.

Cytisium (Holly Fern), Pteris Wilsoni (Crested Fern), and Aspidium are a few of the many good varieties of ferns that are not seen in many homes although they are very desirable house plants. They are all particularly well adapted for fern dishes and fernaries.

Adiantum (Maiden Hair Fern) is a very pretty plant, but, on account of the damp air and continually high temperature they require, few have succeeded in keeping them in good condition.

Besides the above mentioned fern varieties there is a plant well worth having, called Asparagus Plumosus, commonly known as Asparagus Fern. This, however, is not the correct name for it as it is not related to the ferns whatsoever. This plant is not very attractive on account of its delicate foliage. There is no better plant for table decoration. An ordinary sized plant with a few flowers thrust in between the leaves makes a combination superior to any table decorations made by a professional florist.

Asparagus Springuri is one of our best hanging plants, and with proper care can reach considerable size.

**Proper Temperature**  
The temperature in a living room cannot be kept as even as in a conservatory. The main object should be to prevent the temperature from changing too much. Good results may be obtained if it can be kept at about 60 degrees in the day time and not below 45 degrees at night. A higher degree of heat is not good for the plants during the winter time inasmuch as the air in the living room is dry, while in a conservatory it can be kept damp, and consequently the temperature can be raised.

**Scientific Watering**  
Watering of house plants during the winter time should be sparing, but as the days become lighter the plants will consume more water. At all times the plants should have sufficient drain, however. When watering supply the plants with as much water as is sufficient to penetrate through all the soil in the pot. When water begins to come out through the drain in the bottom of the pot this penetration is said to take place. No more water should be given the plants until the soil is dried out pretty well again. Where pots in jardiniere are used special care should be exercised not to have them too wet. Many make the mistake of watering "little but often" and thereby cause the upper part of the soil to remain wet, and thus prevent the air

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## Helpful Suggestions

### FOR MEN

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BAMBOO FRUIT BASKETS  
WHITE IVORY SETS, (in separate pieces)  
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from penetrating. This causes part of the soil to become sour and very little water gets to the roots at the bottom of the plant.

It is a very important thing that house plants be sprinkled on the leaves with clean water at least once a week.

**Repotting**  
As the pots become full of roots the plants should be repotted. In doing this care should be taken not to use too large pots, one number TWO—HOUSE PLANTS .... larger than the former pot is the best. In general a very good soil mixture is as follows:

Screened loam ..... 2 parts  
Manure (well rotted) ..... 1 part  
Sand ..... 1 part

If wood ashes are available it is well to sprinkle a little of it in the soil when repotting. Care should be taken, however, not to use too much of the same.

**Plant Food**  
If a plant turns brown at the tips of the leaves, one of the following is evident:

1. Over watering.
2. Worms on the roots.
3. Lack of plant food.

As a general thing, the first of these may be taken as the trouble. To destroy the worms on the roots dissolve a piece of quick lime, the size of an ordinary cup, in three gallons of water and soak the soil with it. For plant food, stir small quantities of bone meal or wood ashes into the surface of the soil in the pot, or occasionally water the plants with manure water. However, this latter should not be applied to a newly repotted plant. Before using, the roots should have started to develop against the inside of the pot.

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### CONJECTURE OF COURSE

If things had been ordered other wise in Vera Cruz, and if it was not of the highest importance just now to keep out of the European tangle, and if, say, Andrew Jackson were in the White House, it might be quite imaginable that after that Smyrna incident there would not be enough left of Turkey for soup or hash or even croquettes.—New York American.

### HORSES' AGE

To tell the age of any horse, inspect the lower jaw, of course. The six front teeth the tale will tell. And every doubt and fear dispel. Two middle nippers you behold Before the colt is two weeks old.



Before eight weeks two more will come, Eight months the corners cut the gum. The outside grooves will disappear, From middle two in just one year. In two years from the second pair, In three years "corners," too, are bare. At two the middle "nippers" drop; At three the second pair can't stop; When four years old the third pair goes, At five a full set he shows. The deep black spots will pass from view At six years, from the middle two; The second pair at seven years; At eight the spot each corner clears, From middle "nippers" upper jaw At nine the black spots will withdraw; The second pair at ten are bright; Eleven finds the corners light. As time goes on the horsemen know The oval teeth three sided grow; They longer get—project—before Till twenty, when we know no more. —Dr. David Roberts.

### AMERICAN NEUTRALITY

One of the marvelous things of the hour is the patient and persistent neutrality of the American people with respect to the European war. There is no large city in the United States in which there is not a large

number of people of German and Austrian birth and a considerable number of British, French and Russian origin.

Yet there has been no clashing between these elements, no public meetings where either class has denounced the other, no celebration of victories on either side. This discretion is commendable. It shows a resolute determination on the part of the American people to observe neutrality in spirit as well as in action or utterance.—Los Angeles Times.

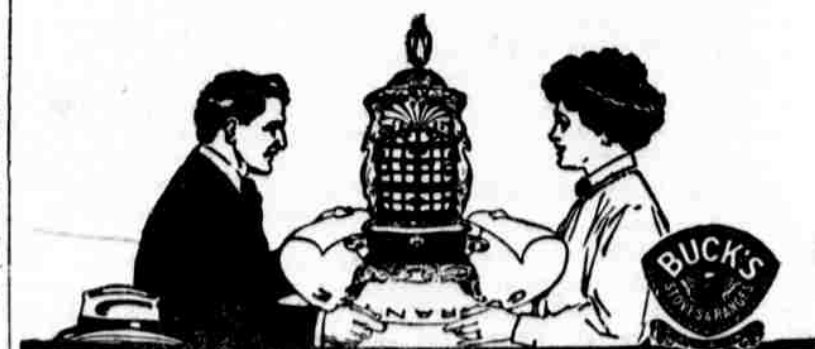
**Unhappy Bachelors.**  
The Moors in Morocco maintain that a married man is blessed in this life and goes to Paradise after death, whereas a grown-up man who dies a bachelor does not find the road to Paradise, but will rise again with the devil.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County.  
I, Frank J. Cheney, make oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.  
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 8th day of December, A. D. 1914.  
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